WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Mary Hanek, Geri Magnuson

Liturgist: Sheryl Schaffer

Communion Assistants: Cathy Abreu, Elaine Bengston

DiAnn Brown, Debra Hogg, Diane Sheldon

Usher Coordinator: **Dave Sheldon**Ushers: **Lisa Swenson. Paul Worth**

Counters: Lisa Swenson, Janice McBride

Altar Guild: **Diana Murphy, Cathi Bean**Collection Specialist: **Andrew Swenson**Streaming Technician: **Dianne Bush**

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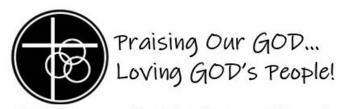


Scan the QR code for giving.

FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS:	All the Members of FELC
Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff	e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com
Church Administrator: Liisa Mills	e-mail: office@firstlc.com
Youth & Family Minister: Heather Catan	esee-mail: youth@firstlc.com
Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz	e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com
Music Director: Michelle Hanson	. e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com
Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette	
Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith	
Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome: L	.arry Cudmore
Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson	flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Summer Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone # (208) 522-9301

www.firstlc.com

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all. Following worship we invite you to join us for coffee and snacks in our fellowship hall.

WORSHIP NOTES:

- **Bold printed words** indicate the congregation's responses.
- For families with young children, you're invited to take advantage of our worship activity bags for children located in the lobby. A nursery for children 4 and younger is located in Room #7.
- If you have a moment, please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it to others in your pew.
- For those with hearing loss, we have hearing devices available at the welcome window; ask an usher for assistance.
- For those with eyesight issues, we have large print bulletins; ask an usher for one.

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michelle Hanson

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#240

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vv. 1&2

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Peace Our thanks to *DiAnn Brown & Debra Hogg* for leading us today in the devotions and lighting of the advent candle.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

For His Glory Ringers

"Emmanuel, El Shaddai"

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WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (Pew Bible p. 558)

Isaiah 11:1-10

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Today 12/7/2025	
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	
	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
	Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	
12:00 pm	Emergency Response Team (ERT) & Shofar Meeting Round About Brass Practice
4:00 pm Round About Brass Practice Monday 12/8/2025	
10:00 am Staff Meeting - Library	
7:00 am	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Tuesday 12/9/2025	
9:00 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers
1:00 pm	Preschool
6:00 pm	
6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday 12/10/2025	
	Preschool
	Preschool
	Praise Band Rehearsal
	Advent Soup & Bread
7:15 pm Advent Worship	
Thursday 12/11/2025	
	Preschool
	Men's Bible Study Kaffeeklatsch
	Preschool
5:00 pm Finance Team Meeting Friday 12/12/2025	
10:00 am Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall	
Saturday 12/13/2025	
Sunday 12/14/2025	
9:00 am	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Adult Forum - Library
	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
	Worship - Sanctuary
	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Congratulations to Skyler & Kaisa McNamara, whose baby, Teddy Gene, was born on November 12th. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, Greg & Kathy Katainen.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

Friends and family of Andrew & Martha Wentzel. Martha's mother, Patricia Hill passed away November 18th.

Friends and family of Dean & Carla Benson. Dean's brother passed away November 21st.

Friends and family of Heidi Ibach. Heidi's sister-in-law, Ursula Frieda Noack passed away on November 26th.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:

Cathy Abreu; Donna Amundson; Sharon Bauman; Ray Bauer; Tina Bean; Betty Benjamin (Lisa Mullinix's mother); Andrew Bessette; Dean & Carla Benson; Peggy Buhr; Dick Carr; Dale Clements; Tracy Coburn; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Joan Douglas; Bernadette Farrington (Annick Dixon's mother); Josephine Fife (Julie Reinwald's mother) Sharon Gilbert; Scottie Grace; Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammon; Bill Hayes; Jack Heier; Mark Holland (Cara Dahlberg's father); Beverly Hudman (Larry Hudman's mother); Larry Hudman; Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mackenzie & Zane Igor; Vickie John; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn (Alecia Coburn's former mother-in-law); Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Andy Kruckeberg; Bud Langerak; Bill Lockman; Allan Magnuson; Geri Magnuson; Mike Martin; Rochelle Mason; Adara McClure (Jeannie Campbell's daughter); Tim Metcalf; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (Larry Hudman's sister); Don Newman (Richard Magnuson's cousin); Heidi Peoples; Carol Miller Pisher (Cal Miller's daughter); Priscilla Rainey; Bob Scarr; Laura Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son); Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Marie Warwick; Chris Weaver; Daniel & Sarah Young.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Craig Bukowski; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Eric Gratzke; Alton Helm; Jack Hogan; Sylas Jackson; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter eleven, beginning with verse one.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 924*) Romans 15:4-13 Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome, chapter fifteen, beginning with verse four.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

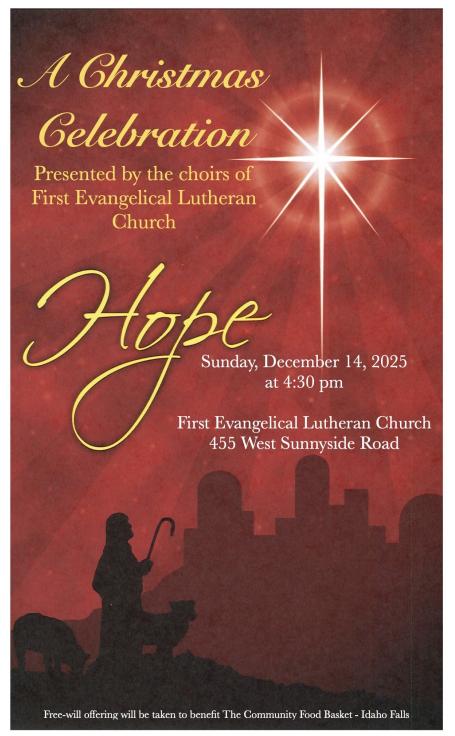
Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 188



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THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

"It's beginning to look a lot like **Advent.**" Perhaps that's not how the world looks at the weeks leading up to Christmas. Yet, for us Lutherans, we view the weeks leading up to Christmas day as a time of preparing our hearts and homes for the promised Messiah of old and the victorious Messiah's return.

Today we enter the season of waiting and watching, preparing and praying that is the Advent season. And while it looks much different from the chaotic way the world leads up to Christmas, in many ways it's better. Instead of a preoccupation with getting, we can focus on giving. Instead of having to do a thousand things, Christians try during this time of year to whittle down to doing the important things. And it's important to remember to "keep Christ in Christmas." FELC hopes to help you "keep Christ in Christmas" by offering meaningful **Sunday Advent services** as well as **midweek Advent worship**.

FELC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Many members have said they've shared this booklet with neighbors and family to help explain Advent as well as share the encouraging advice regarding various ways for families to make meaningful traditions that keep "Christ in Christmas." Additionally, the readings for the lighting of each of the Advent candles can be found in the back of the booklet. These booklets are free and are at the Welcome Window.

FAMILIES NEEDED FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We'll once again be **lighting the Advent Wreath** for each worship service, and this means **we'll need volunteers to help read and light the candles**. If your family is willing to help, the <u>sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Window</u>. We'll be using the readings for the Scandinavian tradition of the Advent Wreath: The Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles.

Our remaining midweek services this year will be held on:

Wednesday, December 10th
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service
- Frosty & The First Noel

Wednesday, December 17th
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service
- The Grinch Who Stole Christmas & Joy to the World

The Advent Worship service offerings will go to support the Community Food Basket - Idaho Falls.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 784*) Matthew 3:1-12 The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter three, beginning with verse one.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Mike Knauff

"Preparing With a Power Source"

SONG OF THE DAY

#249

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

THE SERMON

Pastor Mike Knauff

"Let God Make Your Hopelss Mess into a Message of Hope"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Gathered as a Christian family let us together confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS COMING IN JANUARY

Imagine what our church would look like if no one had to face hardship alone. That's what Stephen Ministry is all about - Christ caring for people through people. We're starting a new training session soon, and we need more caregivers to join this mission. If you're ready to grow in your faith and make a real difference in someone's life, please connect with our Stephen leaders, Annick Dixon or Pastor Mike after worship or during the week. God may be calling you to this work. Also let us know who we should be inviting by filling out the card at the welcome window with names of three people in the congregation you'd feel comfortable talking to with a personal concern.

FYI

Woods Funeral Home has generously supplied us with 2026 calendars. They are located in the Fellowship Hall. Please take what you need!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The winter Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, January 22nd in the Fellowship Hall. It will be held from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Signup information will be in the narthex or you may contact Cathy Abreu at 916-216-6904 or redcrossblood.org

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru October \$268,524; Year to date Expenses thru October \$278,956
Year to date net Cash Flow thru October -\$10,432
Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 150, Live Stream: 122

LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING MACHINE

A giving machine is a vending machine, but rather than candy or snacks for oneself, it allows people to donate to help out nonprofits in the Idaho Falls area. FISH has been one of the nonprofits that has been chosen! Our Family ministry team and our youth will be volunteering on December 20th from 12–2pm. If you are able, please come and support them! For more information please call the church office or Kären Bateman.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FELC will have two worship services on Christmas Eve. The first service at 5:00 pm will be "family friendly." It includes communion and the traditional candlelight ceremony, but Pastor Mike's message will be "family friendly." The messages will be based on the Christmas Hymn of the "Friendly Beasts." Pastor will have 3 separate, short children's messages based on the friendly beasts that were at the first Christmas: a sheep, camel, and donkey. The length of each message, accompanied by quick costume changes, tend to keep wound-up kids and exhausted parents engaged long enough to enjoy some Christmas joy. The service ends with the sharing of communion followed by the traditional candlelight ceremony of singing "Silent Night."

The later Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7:30 pm. It will feature a more "traditional" message, as well as feature one of our musical groups, along with the sharing of communion and traditional candlelight ceremony of singing "Silent Night." Invite a friend, bring your out-of-town family and guests to our "no judgement zone" Christmas celebration. The more celebrating Christ's birth, the merrier.

Speaking of out-of-town families, Christmas Eve worship is one of those times members and friends who haven't seen each other for a while can reconnect. We were hoping to provide a small reception in the narthex with punch and cookies following the late service. If you have a few homemade Christmas goodies you'd like to share *(avoid the extra calories)* for our Christmas eve reception, please let the office know.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Each petition will conclude with "Lord in your mercy;" the congregation responds with "Hear our prayer.")

OFFERING

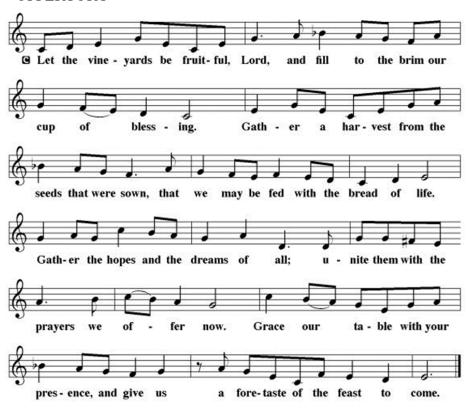
SPECIAL MUSIC

For His Glory Ringers

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Arr. Sandra Eithun. © 2001 Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc. Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-736147. All rights reserved.

OFFERTORY



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WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to

you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who are baptized in Christ, and believe in receiving the bread and wine they receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins, to join us. Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. The serving station at the center of the altar rail is our hypoallergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #253 "He Came Down"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#264

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED LET OUR SERVICE TO GOD BEGIN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENNY POWER

In December, Penny Power will be used to supply Bibles for the Gideons.

WHAT IS THE BETHLEHEM STAR?

The Adult Forum will present the movie "The Bethlehem Star Revealed" on Sunday, December 21 during the Sunday School hour. Since the movie runs 65 minutes, we will need to start a bit early so as not to interfere with the worship service time. Class will begin at 8:50 AM on that Sunday. All are welcome!

CARE & CONCERN HELP NEEDED

The Care & Concern team is looking for volunteers to help their Meals In Crisis team. You would be asked to help provide a meal occasionally to help a family when needed. Please contact Geri Magnuson if you would be willing to help with this ministry.

PAGEANT PROP PREP AND PIZZA PARTY!

The family ministry team would like to invite you to join them in getting props ready for their pageant. This will be today, December 7th at 4pm. Please join if you are able and pizza will be served!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

On **Sunday, December 14th at 4:30 pm**, our music ministry will be presenting "A Christmas Celebration." All offerings collected during the event will be give to the Community Food Basket - Idaho Falls.